

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HEW-04 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00
ICA-11 OES-09 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
AGRE-00 L-03 /067 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM: LMALEXANDER/RDUGSTAD:BW
APPROVED BY S/NM: MFALCO
S/NM: HCOBURN
HEW: PJANUS (PHONE)
ARA/MEX: KMCKUNE (PHONE)
-----084442 032123Z /14
O 032048Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - PARAQUAT ADDITIVES

1. DURING WASHINGTON VISIT OF MEXICAN HERBICIDE SPECIALISTS ON JUNE 6 - 8, US AGREED TO IDENTIFY FOR MEXICAN CONSIDERATION ADDITIVES WHICH MIGHT BE MIXED WITH PARAQUAT TO MARK HERBICIDE CONTAMINATION.

2. A LIST OF THIRTEEN MARKER ADDITIVES HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR INCORPORATION IN THE HERBICIDE SPRAYING OF MARIJUANA. THEY ARE: CAPROIC ACID; VALERIC ACID; ISOVALERIC ACID; MERCAPTO BUTYRIC ACID; MERCAPTO PROPIONIC ACID; C8 MERCAPTAN; TERT. C12 MERCAPTAN; C18 MERCAPTAN; D-LIMONENE-DI-MERCAPTAN; RHODAMINE-B; TRIBUTYL PHOSPHOROTRITHIOITE (FOLEX);
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TRIBUTYL PHOSPHOROTRITHIOATE (DEF); DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE (DSMO). A PRELIMINARY HEALTH REVIEW OF THESE MARKERS INDICATES THAT CAPROIC ACID, MERCAPTO BUTYRIC ACID AND C8 MERCAPTAN WOULD BE THE LEAST HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FOR INCORPORATION AS MARKERS. THE OTHER TEN ADDITIVES IDENTIFIED HAVE SOME SYSTEMIC TOXIC EFFECTS DEPENDING UPON THE AMOUNTS CONSIDERED AND SEVERAL OF THEM MAY HAVE TOXIC EFFECTS THAT

WOULD SUGGEST COMPLETE AVOIDANCE OF THEIR USE. SPECIFICALLY, IT APPEARS DMSO, FOLEX AND DEF WOULD BE VERY TOXIC. THESE INITIAL FINDINGS WILL BE FURTHER REVIEWED AS A MORE

DETAILED LOOK AT THE TOXICITY LITERATURE IS COMPLETED. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE AMOUNT USED AND THE RESIDUAL AMOUNT ON THE PLANTS AND THE NATURE OF THE PYROLYSIS PRODUCTS THAT MIGHT BE PRODUCED WHEN THE MARKER, HERBICIDE AND MARIJUANA ARE SMOKED WILL BE REVIEWED ALONG WITH THE OTHER LITERATURE. THESE PRODUCTS ARE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN BECAUSE PRODUCTS PRODUCED DURING THE SMOKING OF THE MARIJUANA MAY SYNERGISTICALLY PRODUCE DIFFERENT CHEMICALS WHOSE TOXICITY WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED.

3. HEW WILL ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT DURING WEEK 7 AUGUST WHETHER AFTER FURTHER EVALUATION THEY RECOMMEND OTHER ADDITIVES FROM THE ABOVE LIST.

4. A HOUSE AMENDMENT INTRODUCED AUGUST 1 CALLS FOR THE USE OF AN IDENTIFYING MARKER WITH THE HERBICIDE PARAQUAT, TO CONTINUE USG ASSISTANCE TO THE PROGRAM; THUS, THE CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH ON THE USE OF ADDITIVES REMAINS CRITICAL TO THE PROGRAM.

5. WE ARE REQUESTING HEW TO PROCEED WITH TESTS OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE HERBICIDES SUCH AS 2,4-D, TO INCLUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INHALATION ANALYSIS, WHICH MAY TAKE UP TO TWO YEARS ACCORDING TO HEW. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CROP DESTRUCTION, DRUG CONTROL, ADDITIVES, HERBICIDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE196281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LMALEXANDER/RDUGSTAD:BW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780318-1049
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808101/aaaadgts.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80ca8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1543905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - PARAQUAT ADDITIVES
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80ca8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014